

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, June 18, 1970

house that had been on the property when Ahira bought it, was moved to the big square house as a kitchen ell, which part probably dates from 1793.

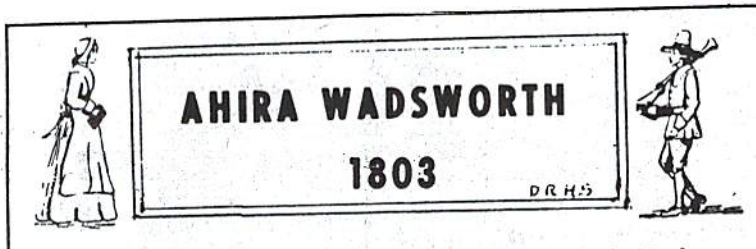
For a time business prospered and living in the fine new house bordered on luxurious, but by 1827, when Ahira was only 50, he went into bankruptcy. The house was lost on a judgment to Boston creditors who shortly sold it to Martin Waterman, a mariner. Captain Waterman did away with the store and once again the house near the shore was home to a seafaring family.

ANOTHER JOLT

But again an unpleasant matter came to rest in this lovely house, when after years of happy possession, the mismanagements of Ahira Wadsworth visited trouble on Martin Waterman's widow.

It seems that Ahira's second wife Olive had not relinquished her dower rights when the house was sold to satisfy creditors in 1827, and after 40 years she claimed those rights and got them. In a short sad document spelling out in detail, "begin at the center of the front gate on the road, ----- through the house, including the north front room and bedroom adjoining, etc.," dividing the second floor, the barn, the cellar and the garden, Lydia F. Waterman, widow of Martin, had to share her home of 40 years with Olive Wadsworth, widow of Ahira. The only hopeful part of this is that it seems that Olive soon went out of town and probably never pressed her vantage far. One hopes she wasn't just vindictive.

When Ronald P. Burrows bought the house in 1962, it was the Waterman House, from Waterman heirs, and Ahira Wadsworth, builder in 1803, was a dim figure in the past. - Dorothy Wentworth, researcher



Ahira Wadsworth, merchant, bought a lot with buildings thereon from Bartlett Holmes, sailmaker, in 1803, and soon thereafter built a 2-story colonial house facing the new highway. It was a large elegant house with eight rooms, one with a serpentine

wainscote, rare in Duxbury. The intricate carving on a mantle suggests a McIntire influence uncommon in Duxbury. A fitting home for a young merchant.

When one or more rooms had to be given over to a store and business area, the old